



\* **Program Element:** Pre-Service Education

\* **Key Issues:** Nutrition Education

## Effective Teaching Skills Course Revitalizes Agriculture Instructors

When participants were asked to summarize what they learned at the end of the Effective Teaching Skills (ETS) course, Debebe was the first to raise his hand and say, *“I was able to identify the gaps in the teaching methodology I’ve been using for the past ten years of my teaching experience.”* This was one of the many comments shared on the last day of a one-week ETS training organized by USAID’s Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities (ENGINE) project for 23 instructors from the Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) College.

*“I had never known ... I was simply copying what the senior teachers did.”* Coming from a business-oriented family, Debebe Degu, 30, had always wanted to be an engineer or a doctor, but he ended up studying agriculture at Haremaya University, Ethiopia. Debebe studied hard, became one of the highest ranking undergraduate students and was offered a teaching position at his university. After spending 10 years teaching in various colleges, he is now a Senior Instructor at Wolaita Sodo ATVET College teaching agriculture extension workers.



Debebe is a passionate agricultural expert who takes pride and joy in his teaching profession because it allows him to mentor students by sharing his knowledge with them. However, he admits that his teaching was never more than transferring the theories he had learned rather than inspiring creative thinking and building skills. *“I had never known the actual difference between curriculum and syllabus, the techniques of facilitating group learning or assessing skills and knowledge of my students. I was simply copying what the senior teachers did.”*

Today, Debebe is eagerly looking forward to applying the new skills he acquired from this training, hoping to empower his students with knowledge that can make a difference in the lives of others.

Save the Children is leading the implementation of ENGINE – USAID’s flagship multi-sector nutrition project, which aims to improve the nutritional status of Ethiopian women and children through sustainable, coordinated, and evidence-based interventions, enabling them to lead healthier and more productive lives.

The core initiative of this large-scale, five-year project (2011-2016) is to prevent under-nutrition during the first 1,000 days by focusing on social behavior change, including linkages to livelihood and economic opportunities.

ENGINE builds upon the Government of Ethiopia’s initiatives and renewed commitment to nutrition as well as the U.S. Government’s Global Health and Feed the Future initiatives.

ENGINE is implemented in 83 productive woredas in four regions of Ethiopia: Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, and Oromia. ENGINE will benefit 3.1 million under-five children, half a million pregnant and lactating women, 3.2 million women of reproductive age, and 2.7 million households.

ENGINE is carried out by a consortium of organizations, with Save the Children as the prime in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and their decentralized health and agriculture systems. ENGINE works with universities, regional colleges, Feed the Future and health partners, and the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute.

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